

CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY  
LOG# 1085600

**INTRODUCTION:**<sup>1</sup>

Attorney 1 contacted the Chicago Police Department, via letter, and Sergeant A registered this complaint on behalf of the complainant, Subject 1.

Subject 1 complained that during a traffic stop, two officers gave her an incorrect ticket and when they asked for it back, she refused. According to Subject 1, the officers summoned a sergeant (now known to be Sergeant B), who screamed at Subject 1 and was rude to her. According to Subject 1, Sergeant B also reached into her vehicle and grabbed the ticket from her so it could be corrected.

**ALLEGATIONS:**

The complainant, Subject 1, alleged that on 11 May 2017, at approximately 0005 hours, in the vicinity of XXXX W. Peterson Avenue, **Officer A and Officer B:**

- 1) Issued her a citation that had an error on it, in violation of Rule 11.

Subject 1 further alleged that on 11 May 2017, at approximately 0005 hours, in the vicinity of XXXX W. Peterson Avenue, **Sergeant B:**

- 1) Reached into the victim's vehicle to grab a citation and pinched her hand in the process, in violation of Rule 9.

**APPLICABLE RULES:**

**Rule 9** – Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

**Rule 11** – Incompetency or inefficiency in the performance of duty.

**SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:**

In an **Initiation Report** dated 15 June 2017, Sergeant A reported that Attorney 1 wrote a letter to Superintendent of Police A in which he stated that the accused officers issued Subject 1 a traffic citation and then asked her to give it back, apparently to correct an error on the ticket. Subject 1 refused and the officers requested a supervisor to the scene. Sergeant B responded and allegedly screamed at Subject 1 and treated her in an extremely rude manner. Subject 1 also

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<sup>1</sup> On September 15, 2017, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) replaced the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) as the civilian oversight agency of the Chicago Police department. Thus, this investigation, which began under IPRA, was transferred to COPA on September 15, 2017, and the recommendations set forth herein are the recommendations of COPA.

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alleged that Sergeant B thrust his hand into the car, injuring Subject 1's fingers. Sergeant B threw another ticket into Subject 1's car and left the scene.<sup>2</sup> (Att. 4)

In a letter to Superintendent A dated 08 June 2017, Attorney 1 provided the same information as included in Sergeant A's Initiation Report. (Att. 5)

The complainant, **Subject 1**, provided a statement<sup>3</sup> to COPA on 27 June 2017. Subject 1 stated that she was driving home and adjusted her lights when the accused police officers pulled her over. The officers stated they pulled her over because she didn't have her headlights on and that they just were giving her a warning, but then told her they were going to give her a citation "since your [sic] going to get loud."<sup>4</sup> Subject 1 admitted that she asked the officers if it made them feel good to give her a ticket, said that she told them to lower their stress to keep them from killing a black man, and wondered if giving her a ticket would help them reach a "quota." The female officer (now known to be Officer A) wrote a ticket and gave it to Subject 1. The officers asked for the ticket back and Subject 1 refused. The officers summoned a supervisor and Sergeant B responded. Sergeant B reached inside the vehicle and grabbed the ticket from Subject 1's left hand, pinching her hand in the process, which caused a blood blister inside her nail bed. Either Sergeant B or Officer A wrote another ticket that was lighter in color than the first. The CPD members then left the scene. (Att. 10)

**CONCLUSION:**

COPA recommends a finding of **EXONERATED** for Allegation #1 against **Sergeant B**, that he reached into Subject 1's vehicle to grab a citation and pinched her hand in the process. Subject 1 refused to return a ticket that officers had requested. In order to provide Subject 1 with an accurate ticket, the incorrect ticket had to be replaced. The contact with Subject 1 was incidental and does not rise to the level of misconduct. Because this allegation is clearly exonerated, it is not necessary that Sergeant B address it in any way.

COPA recommends a finding of **UNFOUNDED** for Allegation #1 against **Police Officers A and B**, that they issued Subject 1 a citation that had an error on it. The initial citation the officers issued to Subject 1 evidently had an error on it, and they attempted to retrieve the citation to correct it. Subject 1 either did not know or did not state what the error was. The citation that Subject 1 eventually received did not contain any error. Making an error in issuing a citation and immediately making efforts to correct the error does not rise to the level of misconduct. Because

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<sup>2</sup> In Subject 1's statement, she did not allege that Sergeant B screamed at her, was rude to her, or threw a citation at her. Because those allegations are not supported by an affidavit and are only contained in Attorney 1's letter, they will not be addressed in this report.

<sup>3</sup> Subject 1 refused to provide a recorded statement and insisted the statement be written on a legal pad in "bullet point" format. (Att. 8)

<sup>4</sup> Att. 10, page 1

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this allegation is clearly unfounded, it is not necessary that against Officer A or Officer B address it in any way.